

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

July 9, 2010

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chairwoman  
House Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural  
Development, Food and Drug Administration, and  
Related Agencies  
2362-A Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jack Kingston  
Ranking Member  
House Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural  
Development, Food and Drug Administration,  
and Related Agencies  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Collin Peterson  
Chairman  
House Committee on Agriculture  
1301 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Lucas  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Agriculture  
1305 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro, Chairman Peterson, Ranking Member Kingston, and Ranking Member Lucas,

As you continue to work to provide food assistance to low-income individuals, we urge you to extend a provision in H.R. 1, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) that eliminates the time limits for unemployed, able-bodied adults without dependents for an additional year through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

As you know, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunities Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) of 1996 limits SNAP benefits for able-bodied adults without dependents to only three months in a thirty-six month period if they are not working or participating in a work program. ARRA included a suspension of this provision so that these individuals can continue to receive food stamps beyond the three month limitation regardless of their work status. We urge you to extend this suspension.

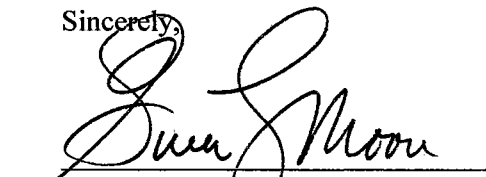
According to an analysis of state data collected by the *New York Times* earlier this year, roughly six million Americans receiving SNAP have no other reported income. They have no other source of income to provide them with the food they need to stay alive and healthy. These individuals described themselves as unemployed and receiving no cash aid, no unemployment insurance, and no pensions, child support or disability pay. The problem has increased to the point where now an estimated one in fifty Americans now lives in a household with a reported income that consists of nothing but SNAP benefits.

The President's Fiscal Year 2011 Budget request included a continuation of SNAP benefits for this group of people and recommended that legislation be proposed to extend this provision for an additional year to ensure that they continue to receive what could be their only source of income. We ask that you include this proposed one-year extension in the first relevant legislation reported out of the House Agriculture Committee or in the Fiscal Year 2011 Agriculture Appropriations bill.

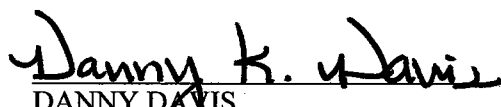
Individuals who report no income are reliant upon food stamp benefits for the food they need to keep themselves alive and healthy. Especially during this period of increasing long-term unemployment, it is a moral imperative to continue to suspend the three-month limit. We urge you to continue to provide these benefits.

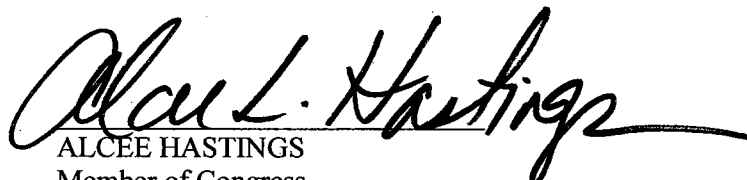
Thank you for your consideration of this important request.

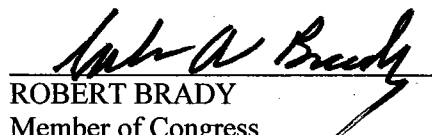
Sincerely,

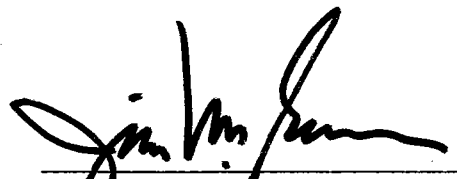
  
GWEN MOORE  
Member of Congress

  
BOBBY SCOTT  
Member of Congress

  
DANNY DAVIS  
Member of Congress

  
ALCEE HASTINGS  
Member of Congress

  
ROBERT BRADY  
Member of Congress

  
JAMES MCGOVERN  
Member of Congress

  
PETE STARK  
Member of Congress

  
JOHN CONYERS  
Member of Congress

  
WILLIAM LACY CLAY  
Member of Congress